

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-22 : (Canceled)

Claim 23 : (New) An optical cross-connect, comprising:

a first plurality of input channels for through data traffic;

a second plurality of output channels for the through data traffic;

a plurality of first optical switching matrices comprising a first group of input ports which are connected to the input channels of the cross-connect, and a first group of output ports which are connected to the output channels of the cross-connect, for interconnecting the input channels and the output channels, each of the first optical switching matrices being operative for switching communication signals at a same wavelength assigned to the first optical switching matrices, the first optical switching matrices having a second group of output ports and a second group of input ports;

a group of one or more signal shaping units formed as wavelength converters, each signal shaping unit having an input connected to the second group of output ports and an output connected to the second group of input ports; and

switching elements for selectively connecting the output or the input of each of the signal shaping units to different ones of several of the second group of input ports or second group of output ports, respectively, of the first optical switching matrices.

Claim 24 : (New) The optical cross-connect of claim 23, in that each signal shaping unit is operative for shaping an individual communication signal.

Claim 25 : (New) The optical cross-connect of claim 23, and at least one second optical switching matrix for selectively connecting the second group of output ports of the first optical switching matrices to one of the wavelength converters.

Claim 26 : (New) The optical cross-connect of claim 25, and at least a third optical switching matrix for selectively connecting the wavelength converters to one of the second group of input ports of the first optical switching matrices.

Claim 27 : (New) The optical cross-connect of claim 23, in that each input channel is connected to the first optical switching matrices via a wavelength demultiplexer and/or the first optical switching matrices are connected to each output channel via a wavelength multiplexer.

Claim 28 : (New) The optical cross-connect of claim 23, and comprising inputs and/or outputs connected to the second group of input or output ports of the first optical switching matrices, for branching the through data traffic.

Claim 29 : (New) The optical cross-connect of claim 23, in that each wavelength converter has a wavelength-tuneable transmitter part.

Claim 30 : (New) The optical cross-connect of claim 23, in that the first group of input ports are connected to the input channels and/or the first group of output ports are connected to the output channels, respectively, without an optical switching matrix being inserted in between.